

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAB-01

ACDA-05 SAJ-01 EB-07 SCCT-01 TRSE-00 /090 W

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O R 161451Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6503

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

US MISSION GENEVA 428

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

S E C R E T CAIRO 9182

GENEVA FOR SAUNDERS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF, UR

SUBJECT: SADAT'S SEPTEMBER 15 SPEECH: COMMENT

REF CAIRO 9159 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: IN OUR VIEW, MOST, THOUGH NOT ALL, EGYPTIANS WERE PLEASED WITH SADAT'S TELEVISED REMARKS SEPTEMBER 15. AS SOVIET AND ARAB CRITICISM OF GOE'S INTEGRITY GROWS SHRILLER AND MORE VIOLENT, SADAT IS FINDING INCREASING LOCAL SYMPATHY FOR HIS VIEWS THAT EGYPT, NOT ARABS, MUST CONDUCT EGYPTIAN AFFAIRS, THAT

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GOVERNMENTS MUST PLACE FACTS AND NOT "DECEPTIONS" BEFORE ARAB

NATION, THAT PALESTINIANS HAVE LESS CAUSE THAN ANY TO COMPLAIN OF EGYPT, AND THAT SOVIETS HAVE LET EGYPT DOWN POLITICALLY AND MILITARILY. INTERESTINGLY, BA'ATH PARTY, MORE THAN ASAD, SEEMED TO BE SADAT'S TARGET IN SYRIA. SADAT CONFIRMED FOXBATS' DEPARTURE. IN GENERAL, PRESIDENT PROJECTED IMAGE OF SELF-RESPECT AND RESPECTABILITY. END SUMMARY.

2. SADAT DELIVERED HIS SEPTEMBER 15 SPEECH WITH CONSIDERABLE FORCE AND EFFECTIVENESS. THEMES HE CHOSE AND HIS MANNER OF HANDLING THEM WERE, WE BELIEVE, WELCOMED BY MAJORITY OF HIS EGYPTIAN AUDIENCE, AND, MANY EGYPTIANS HOPE, BY SOPHISTICATED ARABS EVERYWHERE

THERE ARE, OF COURSE, LEFTIST, "NASSERIST," AND OTHER ELEMENTS WHO WILL DISAGREE WITH PRESIDENT'S REMARKS; SOME OTHERS WILL PAY ONLY LIP SERVICE TO THEM. IN FOLLOWING ASSESSMENT, HOWEVER, WE SEEK REFLECT THINKING OF MAJORITY OF EGYPTIANS.

3. MANY EGYPTIANS ARE EXHIBITING MORE AND MORE SATISFACTION AT OUTRIGHT GOE PRONOUNCEMENTS THAT EGYPT IS SOVEREIGN STATE WHICH OWES ARAB BROTHERS CONSULTATION ON ARAB AFFAIRS, BUT NOT ON EGYPTIAN AFFAIRS. SINCE MOST EGYPTIANS BELIEVE SADAT IS SINCERELY SEEKING PEACE AND SINCERELY AIMING AT ULTIMATE ESTABLISHMENT PALESTINIAN STATE AND ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, THEY ARE GENUINELY IMPATIENT WITH ARAB CRITICISM. AS CRITICISM CONTINUES, THIS IMPATIENCE IS GRADUALLY TURNING INTO IRRITATION. PRESIDENT THEREFORE STRUCK RESPONSIVE CHORD LOCALLY WHEN HE SAID EGYPT NEEDS NO HELP IN MANAGING HER OWN AFFAIRS. IMPLICATION THAT EGYPT IS SOMEHOW DIFFERENT FROM OTHER ARABS IS ALSO GAINING LOCAL POPULARITY AS ARAB CRITICISM BECOMES SHRILLER AND, AFTER MADRID INCIDENT, MORE VIOLENT.

4. PRESIDENT'S REITERATED DETERMINATION TO PLACE "FACTS" BEFORE ARAB NATION IS PARTICULARLY OPPORTUNE IN EGYPT TODAY. LOCAL MASS MEDIA ARE, IN FACT, REFLECTING THIS PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION TO MEET DECEPTION WITH TRUTH. EGYPTIANS ARE DEIGHTED THAT THEY CAN READ IN DAILY NEWSPAPERS ABOUT SPECIFIC ANTI-GOE CHARGES FROM ABROAD, AND THEY NO LONGER NEED TURN TO BBC ARABIC SERVICE FOR HARD ANTI-EGYPTIAN NEWS.

5. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, PALESTINIANS HAVE ALREADY STRAINED  
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EGYPTIAN NATIONAL PATIENCE. THUS SADAT'S AUDIENCE WAS NO DOUBT PLEASED WHEN, SPEAKING ABOUT PALESTINIAN "THEATRICALS," HE SAID FLATLY EGYPT HAS IMPOVERISHED HERSELF FOR PALESTINIAN CAUSE. WHEN IN PAST HE HAS PUBLICLY LAMENTED EGYPT'S POVERTY, IT HAS BEEN IN CONTEXT OF URGING OIL-RICH ARAB STATES TO SHARE THE WEALTH. PRESIDENT'S FORCEFUL CASTIGATION OF PALESTINIAN ROLE IN MADRID AFFAIR WAS GREETED WITH LONG APPLAUSE.

6. PRESIDENT'S CRITICISM OF SARG WE FOUND INTERESTING. HE SEEMED TO MAKE SPECIAL EFFORT CONCENTRATE HIS DENUNCIATION OF SYRIAN DOUBLE DEALING ON BA'ATH PARTY. HOWEVER, PROBABLY BECAUSE HE WAS SPEAKING IN EXTEMPORANEOUS AND RATHER INFORMAL FASHION, HE WAS FORCED TO REFER CONSTANTLY TO SPECIFIC CONVERSATIONS AND MESSAGES EXCHANGED WITH ASAD PERSONALLY. NEVERTHELESS, WE WERE STRUCK BY HIS APPARENT DESIRE TRAIN HIS GUNS NOT ON SYRIAN PRESIDENT, BUT ON SYRIAN BA'ATH. IMPLICATION WOULD SEEM TO BE THAT SADAT SEES NO PERCENTAGE IN ANTAGONIZING SYRIAN PRESIDENT SO LONG AS IT SEEMS POSSIBLE ASAD MAY ULTIMATELY FALL IN WITH GOE THINKING.

7. SOVIETS MUST BE CONSIDERABLY IRKED THIS MORNING. ONCE AGAIN, DESPITE MILLIONS OF RUBLES POURED INTO EGYPTIAN MAW, AND DESPITE SADAT'S PRO-FORMA REMARK THAT HE WISHES MAINTAIN HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH MOSCOW, LEIT MOTIF OF WHOLE SPEECH WAS SOVIET PERFIDY. MOSCOW WAS ALLEGED TO BE BEHIND SYRIAN AND PALESTINIAN CRITICISM OF EGYPT EVER SINCE OCTOBER 6, 1973. SPECIFICALLY, SOVIETS WERE ACCUSED OF SUCH POLITICAL WRONG-DOING AS INSTIGATING LAST FEBRUARY'S PLO DENUNCIATION OF EGYPT. MILITARILY, THEY WERE ALLEGED TO HAVE BROUGHT MIG 25S TO EGYPT SOLELY FOR SOVIET PURPOSES, OF HAVING LIED TO NASSER ABOUT SOPHISTICATION OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED TO EGYPT, OF HAVING BROKEN THEIR OCTOBER WAR PROMISE TO SUPPLY EGYPT WITH MORE TANKS, AND SO FORTH. "SOCIALISM" HARDLY RECEIVED A MENTION IN THE SPEECH. ALSO GALLING FOR MOSCOW WAS FACT THAT WHEN US WAS MENTIONED, IT SEEMED PURPOSE OF MENTION WAS MERELY TO ILLUSTRATE SYRIAN AND SOVIET TRICKERY. EXAMPLE OF THIS WAS SADAT'S ALLEGATION THAT SYRIANS HAD PRETENDED EGYPT HAD ASKED FOR CEASEFIRE JUST BEFORE (MYTHICAL) SYRIAN COUNTERATTACK, EVEN THOUGH ASAD WELL KNEW EGYPT COULD NOT CONTINUE "FIGHT US".

8. SPEECH WAS REMARKABLE LESS FOR "SECRETS" WHICH SADAT "REVEALED" TO ARAB WORLD THAN FOR CONTEXT IN WHICH HE PUT THESE "SECRETS". THUS, WHILE IT IS STRIKING THAT SADAT APPARENTLY HAD PRIOR  
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KNOWLEDGE OF TEXT OF PLO EX COMM'S FEBRUARY DENUNCIATION OF EGYPT, WE WERE MORE INTERESTED IN THE FACT HE "REVEALED" THIS SECRET IN ORDER ILLUSTRATE SOVIET AND SYRIAN DUPLICITY. SUCH TREACHEROUS DECEIT, HE EMPHASIZED, EGYPT FIRMLY ABJURES.

9. OTHER POINTS WORTH NOTING ARE THAT FOR FIRST TIME TO OUR KNOWLEDGE GOE OFFICIAL HAS CONFIRMED SOVIETS WERE GIVEN PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF OCTOBER WAR D-DAY. INTERESTING, TOO, WAS SADAT'S ANNOUNCEMENT FOXBATS HAD DEPARTED EGYPT - "AND GOOD RIDDANCE TO THEM" - ON SEPTEMBER 14. SADAT'S ALLEGATION THAT SECRETARY HAD TOLD HIM US WOULD HAVE ENTERED WAR HAD EGYPTIANS LIQUIDATED ISRAELI WEST BANK POCKET WAS ALSO NEW. FURTHER, WE CANNOT RECALL PRIOR REFERENCE TO A US "BASE" IN ARISH DURING OCTOBER WAR AIRLIFT.

10. IN GENERAL, SADAT PROJECTED IMAGE OF RESPONSIBILITY IN SEA  
OF ARAB IRRESPONSIBILITY. WE, TOO, COULD ATTACK EMBASSIES, HE  
NOTED, JUST AS SYRIAN SECURITY ORGANIZED ATTACK ON OUR EMBASSY  
IN DAMASCUS. BUT WE ARE NOT HOOLIGANS, SINCE WE VALUE OUR SELF  
RESPECT, EGYPT CANNOT BE TERRORIZED BY HOOLIGAN TACTICS. EGYPT  
BELIEVES IN ARABUNITY AND "IT IS NOT EGYPT THAT IS SEEKING SPLIT  
ARABS." PALESTINIANS AND SYRIANS WERE URGED DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY  
TO STAND ON THEIR OWN TWO FEET AND REJECT SELF-CENTERED SOVIET  
DIVISIVE TACTICS. HIS IMPLICATION WAS THAT EGYPT HAS AT LAST  
INJECTED PRAGMATIC REALITY INTO AREA POLITICS AFTER 27 YEARS OF  
ARAB SELF DELUSION AND SELF DEFEAT. MAJORITY OF EGYPTIAN PEOPLE,  
IN OUR VIEW, WILL AGREE WHOLE-HEARTEDLY THAT THIS IS THE CASE.  
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